



Executive Director's Report

At the March Regional Council meeting, we had extended discussion regarding the Regional Office Center project. For the past three years, the Maricopa Association of Governments has worked diligently with the Regional Public Transportation Authority and Valley Metro Rail to plan a facility that would provide office space for all three agencies and provide shared meeting space. At the conclusion of the March Regional Council discussion, staff was to directed to arrange a joint meeting among the three partnering agencies and the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association to address questions and issues from the respective agencies regarding the project.

A common problem encountered on a complex project is to get involved in the details of the project and then lose sight of the original reason for pursuing the project. If the building partners agree on the major premise for the project, it may be successful. If not, then the details of the project are not that important.

At the Regional Council meeting, the major premise for the project was again reviewed. The purpose for the joint facility was to find office space for regional transportation agencies who have a shared mission, to improve the efficiency and communication of the agencies, and to share meeting space that is convenient for the member agencies and the public. This would result in a tangible asset that is owned at the end of the financing, instead of continually renting space.

It was noted at the Regional Council meeting that the project is at a crossroads. We have appreciated the support that has been provided by the members of the Regional Council. It is important that a decision is reached and we move forward either with the Regional Office Center project or that we move in a different direction and develop a new plan to address MAG's space needs.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, March 26, 2008



Action Items

Union Hills/Loop 101 Traffic Interchange Accelerated

The Regional Council approved a proposed acceleration of the Union Hills Traffic Interchange widening project, and recommended that MAG enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and Peoria to facilitate the advancement of the interchange. The approval

is contingent on MAG entering into the IGA with ADOT and the City of Peoria, and an amendment to the FY 2008 - FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program and conformity determination.

The interchange was originally scheduled for construction in FY 2012. However, an arterial street project to construct a Beardsley Road Connector with the Loop 101 is scheduled for construction in the fall of 2008. Given the proximity of the two projects, it was noted at the meeting that significant cost and convenience benefits would be seen if both projects are constructed at the same time. To facilitate the advancement of the Union Hills traffic interchange, Peoria has requested a HELP loan of \$9.9 million to finance the acceleration. The ADOT Life Cycle Freeway Program has this project programmed for \$18 million, so substantial cost savings are expected.

For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, (602) 254-6300.

Projects Assisting Elderly and Persons With Disabilities Move Forward

Following Regional Council approval, a prioritized list of projects aimed at assisting people who are elderly or who have disabilities has been sent to the Arizona Department of Transportation. The Regional Council approved forwarding the list as recommended by the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation Program Ad Hoc Committee. The committee developed a priority listing for the applications received for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funding. FTA provides these funds to the Arizona Department of Transportation for capital assistance to agencies and public bodies that provide transportation services for people who are elderly or who have a disability. Forty-five van requests, two radio requests, one software request, and three mobility manager requests were received and considered by the committee.

For more information, please contact Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.

MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment

The MAG Regional Council approved an amendment to the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan that includes four water reclamation facilities (WRFs) for the City of Goodyear Sonoran Valley Planning Area. The ultimate capacities for the State Land WRF and Southern Region WRF would be 4.75 million gallons per day (mgd) and 24 mgd, respectively. The Section 23 WRF and Section 28 WRF would each have an ultimate capacity limited to 600,000 gallons per day. Reclaimed water from the four facilities would be disposed of through reuse, recharge, and Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit discharge points to the Waterman Wash.

For more information, please contact Julie Hoffman, MAG Environmental Planner, (602) 254-6300.



Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Saguaro Room, 302 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix. Agenda

items are expected to include a transportation planning update; a report on the Maricopa County Clean Air Initiative; Draft MAG 208 Small Plant Review and Approval for the Proposed Preserve at Goldfield Ranch Water Reclamation Facility; and a legislative update. Additional agenda items are pending.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.